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Zuleikha gathered her brothers' swords and tools and led them out of the forest. They traveled through cities and villages, until at last they settled in a big city. Her fascinating beauty, and her majestic behaviour adorned with noble grief, earned her the prince of the city as a husband.

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The witches, however, did not leave her to live in peace. So when she gave birth to three beautiful sons, the witches substituted three small dogs for them and stole the children from the cradle. So it was believed that the princess Zuleikha had given birth to dogs. The prince did not mind for the first two times; but when she gave birth to a dog for the third time, he determined to suppress his love and desert the bewitched Zuleikha. So she was imprisoned in a cell.

Days passed by, and Zuleikha became used to her cell, and spent her days in praying and begging God to help her. One day, the prince determined to go on a pilgrimage to Mecca. He passed by his deserted wife and asked if she would like him to bring her anything from Mecca. She answered that she would like to have "The Case of Patience."

Months passed by, and the prince came back with "The Case of Patience." When Zuleikha took the case which was believed to have magic power, she entreated it to redress the wrongs she had suffered, and to punish those who caused her to suffer. The Case flew towards the witches who reared the three sons of Zuleikha, and killed them. As soon as the witches died, the seven bears turned back into men, the sons were restored to their mother, and the prince reconciled himself to his wife.

JOKES ABOUT HOMS

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The people of Homs in Syria are known for their humour and ridiculous simplicity. There is a kind of rivalry betweeen them and the people of Hama, a city nearby, and they make jokes and tales about each other. The following are some of these jests.

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1. Once a citizen of Homs and another of Hama bought two fans. They were friends. That from Hama visited his friend in Homs. It was hot, and so the Homsian brought the fan for his friend to cool himself with. The friend wondered that the fan was still new. The Homsian ex-

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plained the matter by telling his friend that instead of waving the fan, he always fixed the fan before his face and waved his face!

2. Once a citizen of Hama and a Homsian were spending their week-end on the bank of Al-Aasi. The river flowed towards the citizen of Hama. When he filled a pail of water from the river, the Homsain shouted at him, "Why do you take water from OUR river, you rogue?" The other was wise, and so they agreed to divide the river between them.

At noon it was hot. They both slept. A little later the citizen of Hama awoke to see the Homsian steal water from his part of the river, and pour it into his own part, that is, the Homsian's; yet the water flowed towards the part of the citizen of Hama. The man from Hama did not shout. He only looked and laughed.

3. Once a woman from Homs was cleaning the head of a sheep in the river. The head slipped into the water, and in order to bring it back she gathered a bunch of grass, stood at the bank of the river and beckoned to the head saying: "Come on, come on and eat."

4. Once a Homsian heard a shot in the yard of his house. It was night and he was so afraid that he did not dare to leave his bed. In the early morning he went down to the yard. He found his shirt, which was hung on the rope, pierced by the shot. He shook with fear; then he knelt and prayed. His wife followed him to the yard and when she looked astonished by his movements he caught her hand and pulled her saying, "Come and pray and thank God; for if I had been putting on this shirt the shot would have killed me."

5. Once a Homsian quarrelled with a citizen of Hama. The Homsian shouted at his antagonist, "Shut up. I say shut up or. . ."He shouted so much that his antagonist cried at him ironically, "And if I do not shut up, what will you do, you fool?"

The Homsian quickly answered, "Then I'll shut up!"

6. About half a century ago, the Turkish ruler of Syria was called "Pasha." It was proclaimed that the Pasha would visit Homs on a certain day. On that day from early in the morning the people of Homs crowded into the public square to see what the Pasha looked like. The Pasha arrived at last and when they saw him, they looked disappointed and said, "Is this a Pasha? What a pity! He is only an old man."

Benghazi, Libya